

Fayette County Public Schools
District Safety Advisory Council
Student Voice - SWOT
03.20.18
Meeting Notes

Subject matter experts this evening were 12 students from the FCPS district. They were asked to provide two things they needed to feel safe in school, and two things they needed to feel safe in their community. Their responses are summarized below:

SAFE in SCHOOL:

- Communication between students/parents/administrators
- Accountability/respect for FCPS values
- Positive interactions between students/staff/law enforcement
- Access to STOP tip line
- Encourage students/teachers to report things they see
- Connections; Find our voice
- More guidance in lockdown procedures, particularly in times of transition/unusual situations
- Trust administration to take action
- Inclusivity
- Family culture including student minorities

SAFE in COMMUNITY

- After-school Clubs/Programs
- Build community through volunteering, neighborhood cleanup, community garden
- Catch problems early
- Societal trends/address disenfranchisement
- Open dialogue to change the culture
- High schools reach out to/mentor middle schools
- Mentoring
- Give us something to do; boredom spurs bad behavior
- Address gun/pawnshop within walking distance of schools
- Positive interactions/personal relationships
- Put time/effort/funding into programs to humanize youth; "Know my name"

Only 1/3 of the panel stated that they are confident that they would know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Approximately 1/3 of panel felt safer with installed metal detectors.

3/4 of panel said they could access a counselor same day if needed.

After school programs should be easy to access, perhaps with an involved teacher sponsor. They would allow stability and a chance to get work done.

Overwhelming support from the panel for the school-based law enforcement. “They know us by name and they know the troubled students.”

CLOSING REMARKS FROM PANEL:

- Need a comprehensive approach with what can be seen (metal detectors, etc) and what cannot be seen (community support)
- Public Education is required of us, but students don’t have same access to the education
- Must change culture to be more like family/inclusivity
- More police officers, metal detectors, wands
- Not just law enforcement’s *presence*, but their *involvement*
- Address ethnic/cultural barriers to education
- Acknowledge minorities/ special needs students’ fears
- Social media affects school life even if it occurs out of school
- STOP tip line
- See something/Say something; change snitch culture

Principal Mark Sellers of MLK school addressed the council:

- Community partners extremely important
- Older kids need jobs, activities, open gyms. Community does great job providing these for young kids, but older kids need too.
- Create/maintain/repair relationships
- Listen before I speak to get on their level
- Example: If a kid doesn’t make the sports team, they still need to burn that energy and find the team connection. This is a draw for gangs and bad behavior.
- Utilize baseball fields, basketball courts
- Men act “hard” because they really want out, but not to be considered “soft.” Provide a way out from a real man.

Quincy Murdock of MLK addressed the council:

- We have the resources needed just not the people to execute
- Fear begets fear. Violence begets violence.
- Work primarily with males who are told to “be tough” but need a healthy outlet
- Identify red flags and put “arms around young people and get them the mental help they need.”
- Teach conflict resolution at a young age
- Use stories/hard lessons learned from older kids to teach

The council then broke into small groups to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Then they voted on which ones they thought were most critical. These are in **bold**.

STRENGTHS:

School-based law enforcement

STOP tip line

Community collaboration

Motivated school leadership

Emergency management

Trauma care training

Mentoring

Parental concern

Respect for staff/principals

Community partnerships
Student centered input

WEAKNESSES:

Mental health services

Juvenile justice

Not enough officers in schools

Kids not knowing what to do during drills

Inability to identify kids who are threats

Limited parental involvement

Gangs give sense of belonging

Poverty lack of opportunities (rides, money, etc)

After school/evening programs

Quantity and Consistency of counselors

Communication between school and state

Additional training of emergency procedures

Unsecured entrances

Conflict resolution training

Utilize school space as a community space

More teachers at sporting events

Size of high schools make them hard to cover

OPPORTUNITIES

Parental involvement

Community partners

Expand mental health

Student voice

Federal funding

Parental outcry for change

Restructure counselor ratio/role

UK model

Physical outlets

THREATS

Letting momentum die once initial policies/procedures are implemented

Apathy

Parent engagement

Culture

Cuts in education funding

Social media

Time - teachers still need time to teach

Lack of communication

Privacy laws - existing laws not allowing communication

Lack of collaboration

Juvenile justice system that doesn't hold kids accountable

Lack of engaged community partnerships

Students/staff not knowing what to do

Snitch culture

Missing the current movement toward